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Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 SSO-00 ISO-00 /011 R

DRAFTED BY S/S-O: J. HOGANSON:WES
APPROVED BY S/S-O: J. HOGANSON
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O 231948Z MAR 75 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 065540

W/H PLS PASS SAM 86970 FOR THE SECRETARY TOSEC 995

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJ: FBIS ITEM NO. 70 THRU --TEXT OF QUESTION-
ANSWER SESSION OF RABIN'S PRESS CONFERENCE

QUOTE TA 23 16 15 JERUSALEM DOMESTIC TELEVISION SERVICE
IN HEBREW 1130 GMT 23 MAR 75 TA

QUOTE (QUESTION AND ANSWER PART OF PRIME MINISTER RABIN'S
PRESS CONFERENCE--LIVE)

TEXT (QUESTION) MR. PRIME MINISTER, THERE HAVE BEEN
REPORTS ABOUT A MESSAGE THAT HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM
PRESIDENT FORD. COULD YOU SAY SOMETHING ABOUT THE
CONTENT OF THIS COMMUNICATION?

(ANSWER) A MESSAGE HAS BEEN RECEIVED. THIS IS BY NO
MEANS EXTRAORDINARY, AND IT IS NOT THE FIRST COMMUNI-
CATION EITHER. IT IS AN ACCEPTED PRACTICE THAT WITHIN
THE STRUCTURE OF THE FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE
TWO COUNTRIES, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES FROM
TIME TO TIME SENDS A MESSAGE TO ISRAEL'S PRIME MINISTER.
IT IS NOT CUSTOMARY, NEITHER HAS IT BEEN CUSTOMARY
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TO DIVULGE THE CONTENTS OF THE MESSAGE. I'D LIKE TO

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STATE ON THIS OCCASION THAT UNDUE INTERPRETATIONS HAVE

BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO THE MESSAGE. AND TO THESE THE ISRAELI PRESS ADDED COMMENTARIES THAT DO NOT DESERVE TO BE REFERRED TO. -

(QUESTION) MR. PRIME MINISTER, DOES ISRAEL NOW EXPECT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE TO BE RECONVENED IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

(ANSWER) ISRAEL HAS BEEN READY, AND REMAINS WILLING TO ADVANCE TOWARD PEACE BY EVERY POSSIBLE MEANS. THE OBJECTIVE IS TO PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE. SHOULD A POSSI-BILITY BE FOUND TO CONTINUE PROGRESSING TOWARD PEACE IN STAGES -- WE SHALL DO IT IN THIS WAY TOO. SHOULD POSSIBILITIES BE CREATED FOR PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE SETTLEMENTS--PEACE TREATIES BETWEEN US AND EACH OF THE ARAB COUNTRIES -- WESHALL NOT LET ANY SUCH OCCASION PASS. THE PLACE, THE FORM, THE MANNER -- ARE SUBORD-INATE. WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THE TARGET, TOPROGRESS TO-WARD PEACE, WHILE GUARDING THE VITAL SECURITY INTERESTS OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL.

(QUESTION) MR. PRIME MINISTER, WOULD YOU, IN THE SITUA-TION THAT HAS BEEN CREATED, BE READY TO CONSIDER CALLING ON THE NATION TO UNIFY AND TO ESTABLISH A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY?

(ANSWER) RIGHT NOW I AM DEALING WITH THE SUBJECTS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AIMED AT REACHING AN EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI INTERIM SETTLEMENT AND I SHALL NOT DEDICATE THIS PRESS CONFERENCE TO ISRAELI DOMESTIC ISSUES.

(QUESTION -- IN ENGLISH) MR. RABIN, WHAT, IN YOUR OPINION, WOULD BE THE IMPACT OF THE SUSPENSION ON THE UNITED STATES - ISRAEL RELATIONS, ON THE WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE AID TO ISRAEL, AND HOW MUCH CONSIDERATIONS (REMAINDER OF QUESTION RENDERED INDISTINCT DUE TO SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION)
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(ANSWER) -- IN ENGLISH) THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT THE SPECIAL RELATIONS THAT EXIST BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL WERETAKEN INTO OUR CONSIDERATION AND SERVED AS A MAJOR FACTOR IN OUR DECISION AS IT IS. I DON'T WANT TO SPECULATE ABOUT WHAT WILL BE THE OUTCOME OF THIS (WORDS INDISTINCT), BUT I TEND TO BELIEVE THAT THE ROOTS OF THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE

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UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL ARE DEEP, ARE DEEPLY ROOTED, AND THEY SURVIVE UPS AND DOWNS. AND I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE RELATIONS WILL BE FRIENDLY, BASED ON COMMON INTERESTS, ON A COMMON HERITAGE AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.

(QUESTION -- IN ENGLISH) MR. PRIME MINISTER, WE'VE HEARD REPORTS OF A MESSAGE THAT WAS SENT TO YOU BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, IN WHICH REPORTEDLY (WORD INDISTINCT) THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL WAS SEVERELY TAKEN TO TASK FOR ITS APPARENT (REMAINDER OF QUESTION INDISTINCT).

(ANSWER -- IN ENGLISH) WELL, IN THE SPECIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL FROM TIME TO TIME MESSAGES ARE EXCHANGED BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER, BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE PRESIDENT. AND OF COURSE, WHENEVER THERE IS A SPECIAL PERIOD OF EFFORTS TO MOVE TOWARD PEACE, OR A SPECIAL TENSION, THERE IS AN EXCHANGE, THERE IS A LETTER (WORD INDISTINCT), BUT IN OUR RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES, WE HAVE NEVER DISCLOSED A CONTENT OF SUCH AN EXCHANGE. ALLOW ME TO SAY THAT WHAT HAS BEEN RELATED TO THIS MESSAGE, AND MANY THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN RELATED ARE INCORRECT, AND ALSO THE RELATIONS (AS HEARD, PRESUMABLY HE MEANS REFERENCES--FBIS) TO WHO HAD TO DEAL WITH THE FORMULATION OF THE LETTER -- NOTHING OF THEM I AM GOING TO DISCUSS AND I BELIEVE IT IS NOT IN THE INTEREST OF THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL TO GO INTO THIS MATTER IN THE WAY THAT THE ISRAEL PRESS HAS DONE.

(QUESTION -- IN HEBREW) MR. PRIME MINISTER, THE TALK
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REVOLVES AROUND THE SUSPENSION OF THE TALKS, NOT OF THEIR FINAL BREAK-OFF. THE CONTINUATION OF EFFORTS IS BEING TALKED ABOUT. WHAT FORM FOR THE PEACE EFFORTS DO YOU ENVISAGE IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS?

(ANSWER) AS THE SECRETARY STATED IN HIS STATEMENT YESTER-DAY, HE IS RETURNING TO THE UNITED STATES. HE WILL REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT AND TO THE CONGRESS. A NEW ASSESSMENT WILL BE MADE: THEY WILL GET IN TOUCH WITH US, PROBABLY WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT TOO, AND ONLY THEN SHALL WE KNOW WHETHER, AND IN WHAT WAYS, PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE IN STAGES CAN BE MADE.

(QUESTION) THE PRIME MINISTER SPEAKS OF "SUSPENSION." HAS IT BEEN HINTED BY KISSINGER IN ANY WAY, OR WAS IT

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AT ALL PROMISED TO RESUME THE TALKS.

(ANSWER) AT THIS STATE I CAN ADD NOTHING TO WHAT I ANSWERED QITAL (JERUSALEM RADIO POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT --FBIS). -

(QUESTION -- IN ENGLISH) MR. PRIME MINISTER, ARE YOU ABLE (SEVERAL WORDS INDISTINCT) THE BREAKDOWN OF THE TALKS COULD LEAD TO RENEWED WARFARE ON THE BORDERS?

(ANSWER -- IN ENGLISH) WE HAVE ALWAYS SEPARATED BE-TWEEN THE QUESTION OF ASPECTS OF WAR, AND EFFORTS TO MOVE TOWARDS PEACE. WE ARE STRONG, CAPABLE TO DEFEND OUR-SELVES, AND WE ARE ALWAYS IN A POSITION TO SEE WHAT'S GOING ON ON THE OTHER SIDE AND ADJUST OUR MEANS TO CHANGE THE SITUATION. THEREFORE, WE COMPLETELY SEPARATE BETWEEN THE TWO ISSUES. WE HAVE TO BE ALWAYS READY TO MEET THREATS, BUT REGARDLESS OF THAT, WE ALWAYS CONTINUE TO MOVE TOWARDS PEACE AND TO PARTICIPATE AT EVERY EFFORT THAT CAN BE MADE TO ACHIEVE PEACE EITHER BY (WORD INDISTINCT) OR BY ONE ACT OF CHANGING THE SITUATION FROM WAR TO PEACE.

(THE ABOVE IS ALL OF TEXT AVAILABLE AT 1530). INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PRESS CONFERENCES, NEGOTIATIONS, TOSEC 995
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE065540
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O: J. HOGANSON:WES
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750101-0811
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750324/aaaaavif.tel
Line Count: 192
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: woolflhd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <09 JAN 2004 by woolflhd>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
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05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FBIS ITEM NO. 70 THRU --TEXT OF QUESTION- ANSWER SESSION OF RABIN'S PRESS CONFERENCE
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, US, IS, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (RABIN, YITZHAK)
To: WHITE HOUSE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006